



Morning Glory

“The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh” — James 5:8

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • August 2017

The Awakening of Conscience

By Dr. O. Hallesby

“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish unto God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” Hebrews 9:14

WE have now seen that the conscience of fallen man is not helped by the fact alone that God through Christ has revealed His will to man.

Before the conscience of man can derive any benefit from the revelation of the divine will, God must perform a *miracle* with our conscience.

This miracle we call *the awakening*.

Spiritual awakening is nothing else but the awakening of the conscience. God touches our conscience by one means or another in such a way that it begins to function normally. Up to this time it has been more or less dormant. At times it has even failed to give expression to its judgments. At other times it has spoken so feebly and indistinctly that it has been neither heard nor heeded.

Then something happens.

What it is that happens and how it happens, is not so easy to say.

Spiritual awakening is, on the whole, one of the most mysterious things in life.

But the workings of this mysterious act which God performs within us are not so difficult to observe.

These workings may be very gradual, they may also be very rapid, even sudden; but the effect of the miracle by which God brings about our awakening is neverthe-

less the same; we feel that we have been made to *stand before God* in a wonderful way.

The relation between this experience and our conscience is indeed remarkable.

Our conscience speaks to us without our asking it to do so or desiring it. As a matter of fact, it speaks to us even when we would prefer to have it remain silent. ...

Here we note the gracious aspect of spiritual awakening, the unmerited phase of it.

We are not awakened because we have desired it or willed it or prepared ourselves for it. On the contrary, we do one thing prior to our awakening, and this one thing is to try to hinder it, or, to be more exact, to make it as difficult as possible for God to awaken us. ...

Obviously, this does not mean that God *compels* any one to become a Christian. We are speaking here of awakening, not repentance. God does not compel any one to repent. ...

There are some remarkable passages in the Scriptures about God *giving* repentance to man. See, for instance, Acts 5:31, 11:18, II Timothy 2:25. In fact, we are even told here that He gives repentance even as He gives the remission of sins.

Let us note, moreover, that it is through spiritual awakening that God gives man repentance. Through the miracle of awakening God works upon our wills until we ourselves will to become repentant.

In the Scriptures we find this thought expressed thus: *“It is God who worketh in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure”* (Philippians 2:13). *“And a certain woman named Lydia...heard us; whose heart the*

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Lord opened to give heed unto the things which were spoken by Paul” (Acts 16:14).

We have seen that the expression “heart” is used both in the Old and in the New Testament in the sense of “conscience.” In this case also it seems to lie near at hand to understand “heart” in that sense. In that event we would read that God opened the conscience of Lydia so that she gave heed to the Word.

Here we see, then, how God proceeds when He works within us to will. He works through our conscience, He “opens” our conscience. ...

Scripture speaks about seasons “*when He may be found*” and “*when He is near*” (Isaiah 55:6).

Here we have the real mystery in connection with seasons of spiritual awakening, the grace of God connected therewith.

It is in such holy seasons as this and when we are in such a holy place as in the presence of God that our conscience is again restored to its rightful element and is enabled to do what it is supposed to do.

Now it can speak with authority, yea, with power.

Now it is in truth the voice of God! The voice which pierces through our very bone and marrow.

The Scriptures speak of people who tremble at the word of the Lord (Isaiah 66:2). This is just what the awakened soul now experiences. Now he understands the words of the psalmist:

“Thou, even Thou, are to be feared: And who may stand in Thy sight when once Thou art angry” (Psalm 76:7).

The awakened soul not only hears the voice of God, he also feels that the eye of God is upon him. So nigh has the Lord drawn unto him. In fact, he often feels as though God sits and looks right down upon his life, both night and day.

Taken from *Conscience* by O. Hallesby, Ph.D.,
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Permission Granted,
Submitted by Paul Peterson, Kenyon, MN.

Editor’s Note: Preventient Grace!

* * * * *

Nathanael saith unto Him “Whence knowest Thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, “Before Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee”

John 1:48

NATHANAEL thought that he was both hidden and forgotten where he sat but just then Jesus saw him. He did not get to know, while he still sat under the fig tree, that Jesus saw him but he found it out later.

If we look at this occurrence from an inner and spiritual point of view, we know that what Nathanael experienced has happened too many. Sin and sorrow and doubt had settled down over the soul, everything enclosed us as a dark night, and we thought we were forgotten by both God and men. But then Jesus saw also us. We did not know it, but we learned it later, and now when we look back to that time, we marvel that we did not see Him then.

Now, too, many sit alone, and think they are forsaken by both God and men. An unsuccessful life with sin added to sin has brought you to the conclusion that you are dismissed and forgotten by all. But that is not true – the Savior sees you right where you are now – even if you do not see Him – He sees you. Surely the Lord is not far from each one of us. David says:

***“If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;
Even there shall Thy hand lead me,
And Thy right hand shall hold me.”***

That is what we ought to believe about God. Then we, too, shall see Him who saw Nathanael under the fig tree.

*“Fear not, I am with thee, Oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”*

Thy Kingdom Come, by Ludvig Hope, Copyright 1939,
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Vessels of Praise

By Michael Youssef, Ph.D.

“Blessed (Praise) be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”. 1 Peter 1:3

Our lives are vessels of praise to the Lord. When we make a commitment to obey God, we honor and praise Him with our obedience. Our prayers are offerings of praise to God and express our devotion. When we show kindness to one another, we are living lives of praise and reflecting His love to others (Ed. Provided we know JESUS CHRIST as our personal Savior).

Satan hates praise, and he will do anything (Ed. He has limited power, as long as we are IN Jesus!) to stop us from glorifying God. He knows that God indwells the praises of His people. He also understands the power of praise. When our eyes are set on Christ through praise, we will gain a mighty victory as we submit our lives and our hearts to Jesus Christ.

Praise (and thanksgiving) changes the atmosphere of our trials. Those who know the secret of praise understand that feelings of depression, fear, doubt, and worry vanish in the wake of prayer and praise. Feelings of bitterness, resentfulness, and fear flee when we praise the Lord for who He is and for what He has done.

Our praise to God acknowledges His authority over our lives. This is because in times of praise, we submit ourselves to Him for His glory and purpose. Our humility and courage to trust God demonstrate our dependence on Him alone. Even a few words of praise from the overflow of a humbled heart can be a sweet aroma to the Lord.

Express your love and devotion to the Savior – and your gratitude for His faithfulness – by praising (and thanking) every day.

Selected

***“Nothing Will Ever Be Attempted If
All Possible Objections Must First Be
Overcome”***
Samuel Johnson

The War on Christianity

By Frank Wright, Ph.D.

This is the battle of the ages: fallacy versus truth, evil versus good, and shameful darkness versus the light of Christ. This is the ultimate war with more casualties and more at stake than in any war ever fought.

The specter of war calls forth images of wrack and ruin, human suffering, desolation, and death. Nowhere is the grim reality of mankind fallen into sin more evident than in a landscape savaged by warfare. In its aftermath, we pity the survivors even more than the dead – having survived the horrors of war they often have lost their freedom.

With these grim mental images before us, how can we speak of there being a war on Christianity? Where is the scarred battlefield? Where are the dead and wounded? Where are the prisoners being carried off in bondage?

While we know that Christians around the world are being killed solely for their faith in Christ, here in America we do not readily see this lamentable carnage. Yet the war against Christianity here is no less real, and the battlefield is no less desolate – at least for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

Rightly understood, the War On Christianity is the war of all wars. This is the battle of the ages: fallacy versus truth, evil versus good, and shameful darkness versus the light of Christ. This is the ultimate war with more casualties and more at stake than in any war ever fought. This is the battle for the souls of men, women, boys and girls.

At its heart, this war is a pitched battle against the Person and the sovereign rule of Jesus Christ. The scarred battlefield of this war is the culture itself, with the enemy seeking to lay waste to every cultural vestige of Christian authority, influence, and support. The wrack and ruin of this cultural landscape is the devastation of the family and the school.

The scarred battlefield of this war is the culture itself, with the enemy seeking to lay waste to every cultural vestige of Christian authority, influence, and support, – as well as the secularization of the church and the public square. In every case, the War On Christianity seeks to marginalize, to demonize and to silence every Christian voice.

And wandering across this scarred cultural battlefield are the dead and wounded of this spiritual war – millions of lives destroyed by abortion, along with countless lives denuded of meaning and desolated by atheism, secularism, and the reigning culture of death. The truth is, of course, the greatest casualty in the War On Christianity is leaving in its wake the masses of walking dead in bondage to sin and without a clear Christian witness to offer hope.

Three Things to Remember

1. What seems like random cultural chaos is instead the premeditated and designed outworking of cultural Marxism, which aims to destroy the authority of the church and the family as the predicate to ushering in a new socialist orthodoxy.

2. This rejection of authority structures everywhere is ultimately a rejection of the sovereign authority of Christ over His creation.

3. While weapons of our warfare in the War On Christianity are spiritual, not carnal, we also are called to contend for the faith in the marketplace of ideas, bearing witness to Christ before a lost and dying world.

As David stood before Goliath, the Philistine, he rebuked the giant in the name of the Lord saying:

“This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hand.”

(1 Samuel 17:46-47 ESV)

In our time, we too must remember that the battle is the Lord’s. But like David, there are battles for us to fight in the name of Him who loved us and loosed us from our sins in His own precious blood.

A Newsletter of D. James Kennedy Ministries
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* * * * *

The Old Testament was the Bible Jesus knew and often quoted. One reason the Old Testament is so important, He declared, is because it points to His coming as the promised Messiah.

Some parts of the Old Testament may seem hard to understand, such as the detailed instructions that governed the Old Testament sacrificial system. These no longer strictly apply to us, however, because they have been fulfilled in Christ’s sacrifice of Himself on the cross – and yet they still have much to teach us about the holiness of God and the seriousness of sin – profound truths we need to understand. **Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.** Deuteronomy 8:3

Wisdom for Each Day ©2008, Billy Graham, Mfd. For
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Editorial

RES

ASK SEEK KNOCK

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find, knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

(Luke 11:9-10)

Very significant, as you mediate on this portion of God’s Eternal Word; is to notice the number of words that are plural. It is something like a train-track cross-arms: Stop, Look and Listen – only the above two verses are very positive!

In a very real way we are dealing with the very ‘life-breath’ of a Christian’s walk with God – PRAYER. And we definitely approach the Throne of GRACE in Jesus’ Name (Jesus’ worthiness) as we have no worthiness of our own. So as children of God, we come to our Heavenly Father as a child coming to its earthly father: in confidence and expectation.

In a sense, through prayer we are coming to the King’s Banquet Table; even though we come as unworthy beggars.

You know, IF you were an ‘earthly-beggar’ coming, as invited by the King himself to a banquet table, because you are in need, with thanksgiving you likely wouldn’t ask for a bowl of broth since you were *invited by the King*.

But in reality, you are coming to the Almighty King with the assurance to ask for anything that is your desire; on the condition that the King makes the final choices, as HE knows definitely best and that the King should be glorified through it ALL.

“TRULY my soul silently waits for God’ From Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved. Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah” Psalm 62:1-2, 8.

ASK

Asking is faith in action, is it not?

Do you think we could learn from a man of wisdom in the Old Testament? Although Solomon made some bad choices, he said: *“Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Let Him rebuke you, and you be found a liar. Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): Remove falsehood and lies far from*

me; Give me neither poverty nor riches – Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny you, And say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God” Proverbs 30:5-9. **You and I should not question God, for HE knows what we can be entrusted with!**

Many years ago a young gent was watching workmen put either telegram or telephone lines together for communication. This very young gent asked them what they were doing? Their response was to definitely quicken between two points of communication.

His response was, “That is nothing,” – **“It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.”** Isaiah 65:24.

SEEK

As fathers (parents) like to hear from their children, even so does our heavenly Father like to hear from His children!

In my opinion, to ‘seek’ is to look for something very earnestly and not easily give up! I am reminded of the parables of the Shepherd looking for the one lost sheep; or the lady who lost a coin. (See Luke 15:1-10)

WE are to seek first of all: *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* Matthew 6:33

Among the first thing we are to seek is the furtherance of the GOSPEL as the Gospel has a big **Go-spel!** *“{God} desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* 1 Timothy 2:4.

Seriously, my Spouse and I have been asking/seeking God’s continued mercy upon our beloved USA and renewal of patriotism and CHRISTIANITY. Also we have been asking/pleading before the Throne of GRACE that He lay upon people’s hearts to invest in this portion of Jesus’ Kingdom Work on Earth and that GOD would be glorified.

KNOCK

When someone knocks or rings the door-bell, it is a

definite indication that someone is at the threshold requesting entrance into your abode. We who are invited should *specifically respond to the request!* *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:1 & 6*

WHEN ‘we’ are ‘knocking’, we need to make sure that we have a right-relationship with the INVITER and **by no-means will we be disappointed as we pray that the Father’s Will be done and that GOD might be glorified through the answer for us beggars!**

Remember the parable of the Ten Virgins found in Matthew 25.

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:20

Giving thanks always! We are not to thank God some of our blessings and then forget to thank him for other blessings, but we are to thank Him for all things. We do not always have to thank Him in words, but our actions should be speaking praise to him for the blessing of being a Christian. In deeds of kindness to others we are showing our thanks unto Him.

Dr. Pace was going from New York to Chicago on a crowded train. He had found a seat and settled down to read. He saw an elderly man standing, and offered him his seat. The old man gratefully accepted the seat for he was not well. Then he saw a tired mother with four small children. He went to her and asked, “Won’t you let me amuse the children for a while so you can rest?” The mother gratefully accepted his kindness, and went to the dressing room while Dr. Pace amused the children with stories and pictures. A cultivated Chinese man was on the train, who was a Harvard University graduate, and he said to Dr. Pace,

“Sir, I know you are a Christian. I have been watching you. I, too, am a Christian.”

Another man who was smoking, hearing the conversation, said, “I have been watching you, too, and I want to talk to you. I used to be a Christian, and somehow, seeing you, makes me want to come back to God.”

Dr. Pace’s life was giving thanks to God. Is your life a life of praise?

Dear Lord Jesus, make us a blessing to someone in need. Give us thankful hearts for all Thy blessings. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.” Psalm 122:1

All people should be willing to go to the house of the Lord. But sad to say, many people would rather go to a ball game, or horse race, or a picnic or anything than

to the house of the Lord. Many people say that the church is full of hypocrites and so they are not willing to go to the house of the Lord, but such an excuse will not hold good when they stand before the Lord, their Judge. (Ed. By the way there will be NO hypocrites in Heaven)

Spurgeon tells this story:

One American said to another, “I wish you would come to my garden and taste my apples.” But even though he asked the friend several times he would not come into the garden. At last the fruit-grower said,

“I suppose you think my apples are no good, so you won’t try them.”

To tell the truth,” answered the friend, ‘I have tasted them. As I went along the road, I picked a fallen one, and I never tasted anything so sour in all my life. I do not want any more of your apples.”

“Oh,” said the fruit-grower, “I thought that must have been the case. Those apples around the outside of the garden are for the special benefit of the boys; I went fifty mile to select the most sour apples, and planted them around the orchard so the boys would not think them worth stealing. If you will come inside, you will find that we grow a very different quality there; they are sweet.”

If we go to the house of the Lord to meet the Saviour and have fellowship with Him, we will be glad and our lives will be strengthened. (Ed. Provided you attend an assembly that is Bible believing and practicing).

Dear Lord Jesus, draw us close to Thee, and so Thy children, that we may rejoice in fellowship, one with the other. In Jesus name. Amen.

These two articles are from *Altar Steps*, by Pastor R. P. Haakonson. This devotional book is available from The Hauge Innermission for a donation of \$10 plus \$2.00 for shipping. Just use the envelope at the center of the magazine to order.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

What in the World Is Happening to Marriage?

More Americans 50 years and older are copying younger generations and eschewing marriage, opting instead to live with their partners, according to new research.

In 2016 about 18 million Americans were cohabiting defined as living with an unmarried partner; and nearly a quarter of them were people over 50, an increase of 75 percent since 2007, data released on April 6, 2017, from Pew Research Center showed ...

Fewer marriages, changing social norms and women's greater economic independence are other explanations for the rise, Stepler added...

Pew [Research] found that 27 percent of people 50 years and older who are cohabiting have never married, while more than half are divorced and 13 percent are widowed.

Yahoo.com

“For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark” Matthew 24:38.

More Gays and Lesbians Adopt Despite Obstacles

With tens of thousands of children lingering in foster care across the U.S., awaiting adoption, Illinois school teachers Kevin Neubert and Jim Gorey did their bit. What began with their offer to briefly care for a newborn foster child evolved in a few years into the adoption of that little boy and all four of his older siblings.

The story of their two-dad, five-kid family exemplifies the potential for same-sex couples to help ease the perennial shortfall of adoptive homes for foster children. Yet even as more gays and lesbians adopt, some politicians seek to protect faith-based adoption agencies that object to placing children in such families.

New measures in Texas and South Dakota allow state-funded agencies to refuse to place children with unmarried or gay prospective parents because of religious objections. A newly introduced bill in Congress would extend such provisions nationwide.

Bias against prospective gay adoptive parents remains pervasive, and many thousands of gays and lesbians are dissuaded from adopting for fear of encountering

such bias.

“Some of these agencies are quite clear that they don't work with certain sorts of people,” said Currey Cook of the LGBT-rights group Lambda Legal.

There's no official count of gay and lesbian adoptive parents, but the number is rising.

Same-sex couples are nearly three times as likely to adopt as heterosexual couples, says Gary Gates, a specialist in LGBT demography. His latest analysis of Census Bureau data indicates that in 2015, the year same-sex marriage was legalized nationwide, 44,000 adopted children were being raised by 28,000 same-sex couples. That number of children was double his 2013 estimate.

Taken from the *Star Tribune*, June 18, 2017

Trump on Common Core: “We Have to End It”

President Donald Trump is looking to make good on his campaign promise to do away with the controversial Common Core federal standards implemented in all but a handful (of) states in America's public schools – stressing at his CEO Business Town Hall that local governments will soon reclaim their role of setting education policy.

The president made this declaration... from the White House where he insisted that federal officials should not hold a commanding grasp on public education.

...Trump announced ... “We can't be managing education from Washington.”

Michael F. Haverluck, onenewsnow.com

Editor's Comments: Local schools should be controlled by local officials who are accountable to local voters. The federal government and the state governments need to get their hands off of local schools. With so much wrong for so long, it remains to be seen if Common Core and other nonsense will be replaced by common sense.

Sword of the Lord

New DNC Chairman Says There's No Place for Pro-Lifers in Democratic Party

The chairman of the Democratic Party made it clear that pro-life Democrats are no longer welcome in the party...

Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez's comments have divisive consequences within the

Democratic Party. By telling pro-lifers that there is no room for them in the Democratic Party, Perez is effectively isolating a large portion of Democrats that consider themselves to be pro-lifer. In fact, 23 percent of Democrats consider themselves to be pro-life according to a Marist/Kings of Columbus poll conducted in January.

Lifenews.com

Boko Haram Increasingly Using Children as Bombers

Radical Islamic terrorists from Boko Haram are increasingly forcing children to carry out bombings, with the number of attacks since January already nearly reaching the total for all of last year, according to a report released (April 12) by the U.N. children's agency.

Onenewsnow.com

The Dance!

Many years ago my spouse and I were privileged to live in Canada for a short period of time, seeking to serve our crucified and risen Savior.

During this period of time we were informed how Satan succeeded in convincing some *professing* Christians that the dance was okay under certain circumstances. So dancing-lessons were given in church! After learning how to dance, guess what? The church-dance wasn't exciting enough and so they went and got involved in the supposedly called worldly-dance.

The Bible clearly states that we are to seek to avoid all appearance of evil as we who know Jesus as our personal Savior are His ambassadors in this foreign/worldly world. "*Abstain from every form of evil*" 1 Thessalonians 5:22. We even pray in John 17:17 that HE would 'sanctify' us through His Inspired Word and the word sanctify means to be set-apart from the world and set-apart unto God. "'Sanctify them by Your truth, your word is truth.'" (John 17:17)

A godly Uncle who now is Home in Glory, told us years ago about a wedding that took place in his family; that they had supposedly a Christian-dance and that he went outside the building and wept. (You know what Grandparents used to call sin is very likely sin yet today and God does not change His Mind). History would record that MANY acts of immorality have been committed after a dance and possibly lingering at the alcoholic bottle!

Now I am fully aware that there are professing Christians who will refer to king David who 'danced' in the streets to justifying dancing. (See 2 Samuel 6:14) Please prayerfully read the entire text (to the end of the chapter) and see what the final results were.

JESUS came to be our Savior, but secondly Jesus is our prime example to follow – correct? Imagine, if you can, that the Incarnate Son of God were physically in our midst today. Do you believe that JESUS would be involved in the dance today, when HE clearly states that he who looks at a woman and lusts after her (the opposite is also true), has committed adultery already in his heart?

Now keep in mind that the participants in dancing are many times dressed either immodestly or with tight/scant clothing.

The dance frequently involves a man putting his arms around a woman's body. Would we believe this would bring honor and glory to the Almighty?

I am reminded of a fairly young believer who thought he could go to the dance and testify for Jesus on the dance-floor, which he tried. His partner asked him, "What are you doing here?" She knew the dance is of the world. I am concerned also what the things of this world lead to, as there is pleasure in sin for a season, and the deception of thinking we are living a newer world today than the days of old. ALSO, that we have lost (at large) the value God places upon each individual and that HE is a jealous GOD and that we cannot serve two masters. ALSO we have lost much of the holiness and purity of God today! This is one reason why today folk reason and tolerate sin so easily, and causally dismiss so many sins as minor or insignificant. JESUS says: "***But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.***" Matthew 5:28. We need a new vision of who God is, and who we are as sinners in His sight. "*All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them. They are all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge. For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her. The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate*" Proverbs 8:8, 9, and 13.

I believe that I have stated clearly enough, that I do not believe, that for professing Christians, the dance nor moderate drinking of Alcoholic beverages has any place in a Christian's life.

Editor

A Prophet Warning from Ezekiel 23

Please read Ezekiel 23 very carefully

God had richly blessed His people Israel. In spite of these great blessings, they sinned and rebelled against God to the point where He needed to judge them severely. This judgment came in the form of an invading foreign king named Nebuchadnezzar. In three raids, he destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, and took most of the people back to Babylon as captives. They would dwell in that land for 70 years according to the prophecy of Jeremiah. While they were dwelling in Babylon is when the priest Ezekiel brought God's Word of correction upon them, to the end that they would repent and be restored to God, and then back to their land.

What were the sins which brought God's judgment upon them? Time and time again it was the sin of idolatry. They went after other gods to worship and serve them, especially the rain god Baal and his female counterpart Ashteroth, the fertility goddess. Connected closely with this idolatry were sexual sins. Ezekiel portrayed this by two sisters, Oholah (my tent or temple) and Oholibah (my tent or temple in her). These two sisters represent Samaria (the center for the Northern Kingdom) and Jerusalem (the center for the Southern Kingdom).

They are depicted as committing the lewdest and most immoral acts that you can imagine, even compared to having relations with animals! *"There she lusted after her lovers, whose genitals were like those of donkeys and whose emission was like that of horses."* (Ezk. 23:20 NIV) What was being practiced in heathen cultures (namely Egypt, Assyria and Babylon) was now adopted into Israel's life. The sensuality of fallen men was now adopted by the people of God, especially the women who centered their lives in sensuality.

Why did this happen? Because they forsook the Lord and went after other gods, and this will be the sin which will come to the forefront when people abandon God and His standards. This is exactly what God said they did: *"Therefore, thus says the Lord God, 'Because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back, bear now the punishment of your lewdness and your harlotries.'" (Ezk. 23:35)*

God would not sit by idly when His people were doing such great acts of idolatry and sensuality. Even when God's people sin with no repentance, He will bring judgment upon them. Through Ezekiel, the Lord said to Israel: *"Thus I shall make lewdness cease from the land, that all women may be admonished and not commit lewdness as you have done. And your lewdness will be re-*

quited upon you, and you will bear the penalty of worshipping your idols; thus you will know that I am the Lord God." (Ezk. 23:48-49) In fact, God would do whatever it would take to rid His people from this lifestyle. It meant that the Northern Kingdom was captured by the Assyrians and the Southern Kingdom was captured by the Babylonians, the temple and Jerusalem destroyed and lying in ruins. This is what God brought upon His own people because of their sin.

What happened to Israel is happening to America and the Church today. Society became sensual in nature with a so-called "new morality," which was actually no morality. What was initially fostered through the music industry spread like wild fire to where open acts of immorality were brazen upon society. One can scarcely watch anything on TV or go anywhere publicly without this being brazenly displayed and promoted. For people to live together outside of marriage or for people to be involved sexually with others is common today and accepted. Even open acts of sexual perversion are paraded today as being a good, viable alternative to Biblical marriage and relations.

As time went on, the people of God adopted the standards of society, including the lewdness. It isn't unusual to see even Christian women dressed inappropriately, even though the Scripture admonishes women *"...to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly"* (I Tim. 2:9) Somehow the perceived notion today is that anything goes because Jesus has all our sins covered and God loves us just the way we are. Repentance is seldom, if ever, mentioned, and the thought of God's judgment coming upon the people of God is entirely dismissed.

There is immorality in the church today. People who claim the name of Christ must flee from all manner of lewdness and immoral sexuality. Are you involved in sexual sins of fornication, adultery, homosexuality, pornography or perversion? It must stop and it must stop now. Do not be so foolish as to believe that you can live this way and all of your sins will be forgiven, because repentance means a change of mind. Without repentance (a change of thinking and a corresponding change of behavior) there will be no forgiveness. Ezekiel shows us this, as well as the New Testament in many places; such as I Corinthians 6:9-10, *"Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers shall inherit the kingdom of God."* — JRH

“For we walk by faith, not by sight”

II Corinthians 5:7

THE Christian’s pilgrimage through the world to his Home with God is a walk by faith. No one of us has seen heaven, God, or Jesus Christ. To us, too, it may be said: *“Whom not having seen ye love.”*

Our faith is the foot that stands on the Word of God – the hand that grasps Christ and His cross – that takes the sword to fight the good fight – and holds fast to the invisible One as though we see Him. If a Christian quits believing, he has nothing to stand on, nothing to hold fast to, and possesses no goal of life. Without faith it is impossible to please God, and without faith it is also impossible to experience God. ***We walk by faith, not by sight.*** That means: We must go all the way through this life in faith.

Paul, too, had to believe even though he had been in the third heaven and had seen and heard unspeakable things there. When he stands at the end of life he says rejoicingly: *“I have kept the faith!”* He considers that to be unspeakably great.

Let us thank God for everything that we may experience in the fellowship of Jesus Christ, but let us not thank Him least because He permitted us to believe, and let us never quit praying Him to preserve us in the Word and in faith until our death. Many are imprisoned for eternity because they quit believing. May that never happen to any of us!

*I know the work is only Thine,
The gift of faith is all divine;
But if on Thee we call,
Thou wilt the benefit bestow,
And give us hearts to feel and know
That Thou has died for all.*

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* * * * *

Athens

Paul’s preaching in Athens’ main marketplace attracted great curiosity, and finally a well-known group of intellectuals invited him to speak to them. He readily accepted, and in his address covered three important points.

First, Paul talked about the one true God, the Creator who is the holy, unchangeable God of love.

Calling their attention to an altar he had seen dedicated “To an Unknown God,” he pointed them to the God who made them and sustained them. How many people believe God exists but find Him unknown, in the sense that they have no fellowship with Him?

May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? Acts 17:19.

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“So then, you will know them by their fruit.”

Matthew 7:20

By Pastor Paul Larson, Detroit Lakes, MN

Jesus was speaking about false teachers, wolves in sheep’s clothing! As Christians we live in a day and age where we need to carefully evaluate what we hear and see. Are the people we listen to, the books we read and ministers we see on television true people of God or are they wolves in sheep’s clothing?

As we near the Lord’s return (Rapture) we are told that people will be more likely to follow someone or something that is not true.

“But the Spirit explicitly says that in the later times some will fall away from the faith paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.” 1 Timothy 4:1.

We are living in those times. Today people would rather believe a lie than deal with the truth.

The truth is too difficult for them to accept. The truth that says we are sinners and need to repent.

So many people today go around from church to church looking for someone who will tell them that they are OK just the way they are.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.” 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

Don’t be among those who are misled. Know the Word of God and discern between those who preach and teach it correctly and those who do not.

Editor’s Note: Thank you so much Pastor, for this very biblical sound advice and, as you likely know, Martin Luther stated that the man (person) who does not fear himself has the greatest reason to fear of all: for as we know the natural/depraved heart is deceitful and desperately wicked!

Born Again

“The just shall live by faith” (Hab. 2:4)

This is the seventh in a series of articles about the conversion of Martin Luther. The year 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and we want to emphasize how Luther was converted, for you will see elements in Luther’s conversion that are lacking in most Christian circles today.

As Luther was a Professor of Theology at Wittenberg, he set himself to learn and expound the Scriptures. On August 1, 1513, he commenced his lectures on the book of Psalms. In the fall of 1515 he was lecturing on St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans. The Epistle to the Galatians was treated throughout 1516-1517. These studies proved to be for Luther the Damascus road.

“The study of the apostle Paul proved at this point of inestimable value to Luther and at the same time confronted him with the final stumbling block because Paul unequivocally speaks of the justice of God. ...

“In the Greek of the Pauline epistle the word “justice” has a double sense, rendered in English by “justice” and “justification.” The former is a strict enforcement of the law, as when a judge pronounces the appropriate sentence. Justification is a process of the sort which takes place if the judge suspends the sentence, places the prisoner on parole, expresses confidence and personal interest in him, and thereby instills such resolve that the man in reclaimed and justice itself ultimately better conserved than by the exaction of a pound of flesh.

In Luther’s own words:

“I greatly longed to understand Paul’s Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in my way but the one expression, “the justice of God,” because I took it to mean that justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust. My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage Him. Therefore I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against Him. Yet I clung to the dear Paul and had a great yearning to know what he meant.

“Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that “the just shall live by his faith.” Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteous-

ness by which, through grace and sheer mercy, God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before the “justice of God” had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven.”¹

In Luther’s quandary, he turned to the Scriptures. In them he found the blessed peace of sins forgiven by faith in Jesus alone, apart from human merit or work. Notice very carefully how he described it: “I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone thorough open doors into paradise.” Luther had a born-again experience after his baptism. It was something that he *FELT* and *PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED*. Faith was not just a collection of historical facts that he acknowledged as being true, as is commonly panned off as true faith. Faith was a personal encounter with the living Lord Jesus that changed his entire life. This happened when he personally came to the Lord. He would later write, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, OR COME TO HIM ...” (Luther’s Explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed)

Luther had a “conversion experience.” He could later look back to this time in his life as to when he got saved. He would fondly remember that passage from Romans as being the portion of Scripture which settled it all for him. This was the key event in Luther’s life that started the great Reformation movement: Salvation in Jesus through personal, living faith, not just baptism.

Luther now had Assurance of Salvation. The forgiveness of sins and assurance of his standing before God were a settled issue. As he would later write in his Preface to the Book of Romans, “Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, **so sure and certain** that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times.” The man who could not possibly conceive that he would be acceptable to God was now absolutely convinced that it was so. He went on to write, “**This confidence** in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures; and this is the work of the Holy Ghost in faith.”

Like the Apostle Paul, he could now say, “**I know** in whom I have believed and **am persuaded** that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.” (2 Tim. 1:12) Luther’s baptism and confirmation gave him no assurance of his salvation.

1 *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* by Roland Bainton. Abington Press, Nashville, TN, 1978, pgs. 49-50.

Dear reader, has what happened to Luther happened to you? Have you personally come to the Lord Jesus for salvation? It might be a moment in time, or it might be a journey, which, like Luther, finally culminates in a faith that is now alive. Are you trusting in the fact that you are baptized and confirmed, without having a living trust in the Lord Jesus as your personal Savior? Do you have Assurance of Salvation? Is your final, eternal destiny a settled issue? Do you say, "Well, I think so," or "I hope so," instead of saying, like Luther, "I have a confidence that is certain and sure?" Have you, like Luther, had a born-again experience and know for certain that Christ is yours and all of your sins are forgiven before God?

If the answer to these questions is "no," then do what Luther did: Turn to the Scriptures and pray for the Holy Spirit to bring you to personal repentance of sin and personal faith in Jesus which trusts Him and results in living assurance. For me, it was January 17, 1981 at 10:30 at night on my couch at home when I prayed for Jesus to be my Savior. The Scripture which settled it for me was Galatians 2:20, "*I am crucified with Christ, and yet I live, yet not I, but Christ that liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*"

Lutheran churches which teach salvation through baptism, with no personal experience with Jesus after that, are not even doing what Luther himself experienced. Is it any wonder that so many in the Lutheran Church have no Assurance of Salvation?

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

Christ Is in You

"If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness" Romans 8:10.

How many funerals have you been to over the past year or month or week? It seems the older we get, the more funerals we get invited to. Is that the curse of age? Or is it perhaps the privilege of age?

When someone I know dies, it is always a sad occasion. It is never an event to be enjoyed or embraced. That is because death itself is awful. It is repulsive.

Even though some will say that death is natural, it really isn't. Death is not natural because our Creator did not originally create man to die but to live. Death is not

just the result of sin but the punishment for sin. Death is "condemnation." These bodies of ours wear out and die. Or for some, tragically too soon, their bodies meet cruel death by disease, illness, or accident. Whatever the cause, the death of this body will come. Our bodies are subject to death.

But not your eternal soul. "***Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.***" (Romans 8:1). WOW! Think about that a moment. "No condemnation" means never condemned to eternal death but elevated to eternal life... in Christ Jesus. We know our Savior lived and died and rose again for us. We trust in Him to cover us with righteousness, and the righteous live forever.

The apostle Paul wrote previously to the Romans: "***But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.***" (Romans 3:21-23) Here is the good news: Jesus credits His righteousness to us. This gives us daring confidence to live each day in Christ, looking forward to being with Christ for an eternity.

The Holy Spirit loves righteousness too much to leave even one righteous person in the grave. He is too proud of His righteous saints to hide them under cemetery clay. He is too eager to glorify and reward the righteous; He cannot leave them subject to death forever. You are His righteous saint, covered with the righteousness of your Savior, and you will be made alive all because there is not condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Jesus, thank you for giving me the daring confidence to live each day for You now, even while I look forward to an eternity in heaven with You. Amen.

Meditations Daily Devotional

Editor's Note: The older a believer becomes, not ONLY will he love God's Word more, but also a conservative edition of Dr. Martin Luther's *SMALL CATECHISM*. Therein a person finds a biblical explanation of 'What is Justification'? "Justification is the gracious act of God whereby He for Christ's sake acquits a repentant and believing sinner of his sin and guilt, and looks upon him, in Christ, as though he had never sinned."

"For He made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" II Corinthians 5:21. "being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" Romans 3:24.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8

TO be pure in heart cannot be the same as being without sin, or never doing wrong. If that were the case no one in this world would have a pure heart.

But what is it to have a pure heart?

First and foremost it is something inside of us that feels sick and hurt at everything unholy and unclean, and which therefore cannot live without confessing everything to God just as it is. A pure heart is that within us which cannot endure one single sin resting on conscience unconfessed and unforgiven; but must open the door so that light may flood all that is crooked and sinful, and must openly lay bare every sore to Him who has promised to heal all sores.

Then we draw near to God with a true heart, then we are of the truth, then we shall hear the Savior-voice of Jesus Christ. Then we walk in the light, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin. Then the pure are purified, and then we see God.

It is the hidden sin that makes the heart impure, and that casts a shadow between us and God.

And this danger lurks at the door of us Christians every single day. To live in the truth and to walk in the light, as God is in the light, that is the way that leads up to God. Here is the straitened way, of which Jesus says: "Few are they that find it." Have you found it?

"Create in me a clean heart, O God;

And renew a steadfast spirit within me"

Psalm 51:10

Grant us, dear Lord, our cross to bear

Till at Thy feet we lay it down,

Win through Thy blood our pardon there,

And through the cross attain the crown.

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Spiritually Dead

Dr. C. F. W. Walther, writes:

"There are people who regard themselves as good Christians although they are spiritually dead. They have never felt a real anguish on account of their sins; they have never been filled with terror on account of them, have never been appalled by the thought of the hell which they have deserved, have never been on their knees be-

fore God, bemoaning with bitter tears their awful, damnable condition under sin. Much less have they wept sweet tears of joy and glorified God for His mercy. They read and hear the Word of God without being specially impressed by it. They go to church and receive absolution without feeling refreshed; they attend Holy Communion without any inward sensation and remain as cold as ice. Occasionally, when they become inwardly agitated because of their indifference in matters concerning their salvation and because of their lack of appreciation of God's Word, they try to quiet their heart with the reflection that the Lutheran Church teaches that the lack of spiritual feeling is of no moment. They reason that this lack cannot harm them and that they can be good Christians notwithstanding, because they consider themselves believers.

"However, they labor under a grievous self-delusion. People in that condition have nothing but the dead faith of the intellect, a specious faith or, to express it still more drastically, a lip faith. They may say with their mouth 'I believe,' but their heart is not conscious of it. No, indeed; a person who cannot say, in accordance with Psalm 34:8, that he has tasted and seen that the Lord is good must not regard himself as being in a state of true faith. Moreover, the Apostle Paul says, Rom. 8:16: "*The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are children of God*". Can the Holy Spirit bear this witness in us without our feeling it? The witness in court must speak loud enough for the judge to hear. The same is necessary in this case. According to God's Word any person who has never felt the testimony of the Spirit that he is the child of God is spiritually dead. He can offer no testimony in his favor and does wrong by considering himself a Christian nevertheless."

Quoting again from Dr. Walther, we read, "It would be awful if any of you would have to retire this evening with the thought in his heart: 'I do not know whether God is gracious to me, whether He has accepted me as His child, and whether my sins are forgiven. If God were to call me hence tonight I would not be sure whether I should die saved.' God grant that no one of you will retire in that frame of mind; for he would lie down to rest with the wrath of God abiding on him."

"But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works." Psalm 73:28.

Assurance

Pastor Maynard Force

Martin Luther writes,

“‘You have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.’ This crying (Abba Father) is felt when one’s conscience, without wavering and questioning, conceives a staunch boldness to be quite certain, not only that his sins have been forgiven, but also that he is a child of God, assured of his salvation and may with a cheerful and assured heart and with all confidence call God his dear Father and cry to Him. Of these things he must be more certain than his very life, and must be ready to suffer every kind of death, and hell in addition, rather than allow this assurance to be taken from him by yielding to doubt.

“True, there may come a strife in a Christian causing him an anxious feeling leading him to think he is not a child of God, and to imagine and feel that God is an angry, stern judge, as happened to Job and many others. But in a conflict of this kind, childlike confidence, though trembling and quaking, must conquer in the end or everything is lost.”

Lack of assurance is a sign of a reprobate. Paul, writing to the Corinthians, admonishes them, **“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you – unless indeed you fail the test? (Are reprobate)”** 11 Cor. 13:5. What a solemn statement! If this warning was fitting for the Corinthians, surely it would be in place for us also. Paul asked them to check up on themselves. “Test yourselves, whether you are in the faith.” Then he asks, “Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?” He is surprised if they do not know. He does not add, *“Of course, you are saved and do not know it.”* No, he quickly reminds them, “Unless indeed you be reprobate.” Reprobates, or outcasts, do not have Holy Spirit assurance. Therefore, now is the time to “try your own selves” and “prove your own selves” to see whether you are in the faith.

Lack of assurance is a sign of blindness. Those who lack assurance have failed to lay hold of one of the most blessed truths in all of God’s Word. Satan is still

How many people have come to their older years with this thought in mind: Too Soon Old, and Too Late Smart?

holding them in darkness, **“and even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to them that perish: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn upon them”** (II Cor. 4:3, 4). Notice the seriousness of the statement. “It is veiled to them that perish.” Lost people are blind. They just cannot see what God’s children see. It is Satan’s desire to keep them in this darkness until it is too late. Therefore blind people should never be comforted to believe all is well. It were far better that they might become conscious of their terrible state. It is only when people realize they are lost that they begin to seek Christ in dead earnest. As Martin Luther puts it: **“God never comforts any but the afflicted, just as He never quickens unto life any but the dead. Nor ever justifies any but sinner.”**

Lack assurance is a sign of no testimony. Peter writes that we should be **“ready always to give answer to every man that asks you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear”** (1 Pet. 3:15). One who lacks assurance has no hope. It would be embarrassing for such a one to be asked a reason concerning the hope that is in him. Before I found peace with God, I had an inward fear of the question, **“Are you saved?”** Now that same question gives me a great joy. It offers an opportunity “to give answer to every man that asks” a reason concerning the hope that is in me. This hope is not one that is to come, but rather “the hope that is in you,” something you now have.

Who do you say I am?

Matthew 16:15

C. S. Lewis pointed out that there are only four possible conclusions you can reach about Jesus. Either He was a liar, or He was self-deceived, or He was insane – or He was in fact who He claimed to be: the Son of God. Which was He? The only logical conclusion is that Jesus was the Son of God. A liar couldn’t have taught the lofty moral principles He did. A self-deceived person couldn’t have performed the miracles He did. A lunatic couldn’t have held up under pressure the way Jesus did. After closely observing His life every day, His disciples reached their conclusion: **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”** Matthew 16:16.

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GOD'S WILL AND OURS

“Your will be done” Matthew 26:42

By Andrew Murray

It is the high prerogative of God that everything in heaven and earth is to be done according to His will and as the fulfillment of His desires. When He made man in His image, man's desires were intended to be in perfect accord with the desires of God. This is the high honor of being made in the likeness of God – that we are to feel and wish just as God does. In human flesh, man was to be the embodiment and fulfillment of God's desires.

When God created man with the power of willing and choosing what he should be, He limited Himself in the exercise of His will. And when man had fallen and yielded himself to the will of God's enemy, God in His infinite love set about the great work of winning man back, and of making the desires of God his own. As desire is the great motivating power in God, so it is in man. And just as man had yielded himself to a life of desire after the things of the earth and the flesh, God had to redeem him and educate him into a life of harmony with Himself. His one aim was that man's desires would be in perfect accord with His own.

The great step in this direction was when the Son of the Father came into this world. He reproduced the divine desires in His human nature and in His prayer to yield Himself up to the perfect fulfillment of all that God wished and willed. The Son, as Man, said in agony and blood, “**Your will be done,**” and made the surrender even to being forsaken by God, so that the power that had deceived man might be conquered and deliverance might be procured. It was in the wonderful and complete harmony between the Father and the Son when the Son said, “**Your will** (of love) **be done,**” that the great redemption was accomplished.

In taking hold of that redemption, believers have to say, first of all for themselves and then in lives devoted to intercession for others, “Your will be done in heaven as on earth.” (See Matthew 6:10). As we plead for the church, its ministers, and its missionaries, its strong Christians or its young converts, and for the unsaved, whether nominally Christian or unchurched, we have the privilege of knowing that we are pleading for what God wills, and that through our prayers His will is to be done on earth as in heaven.

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Quench Not The Spirit – 1 Thess. 5:19.

THE Spirit's fire in heart and life may be quenched

both rapidly and easily. If we are not on our guard we may soon be among those who are dead while they live, regardless of how holy and burning in the spirit we once were.

The Spirit of God has promised to guide us into all truth, also the truth about ourselves. When the Spirit throws His light into our nature, and we see the evil disposition, the perverse will, and the sinful thoughts that want to rule it – if then we do not take up the battle against this inner hurt – we may quench the Spirit. Where the inner discipline and cleansing cease, there God's Spirit loses His foothold, and cannot work. Then we become blind to our own folly, and can get so far into the darkness that we do not see our sin either in heart or in works.

It is deep down in the heart that the foundation must be laid for all true Christian life. It must be laid there by the Spirit who punishes us for our sins, and leads us to the fountain in “the house of David” that cleanses from sin and from uncleanness. But it is here, too, that it is so easy for us to grieve the Holy Spirit, and to extinguish the bridal torch that we bear. Then darkness surrounds us.

We can never shout too loud to each other about being careful here. All those who are earnestly striving for a holy life know how great this inner danger is. Let us watch over ourselves so that we do not quench the Spirit.

*One secret thought
With evil fraught,
Which in the heart was cherished,
Havoc of God's grace hath wrought,
And the soul hath perished.*

THY KINGDOM COME, By Ludvig Hope, Augsburg Publishing House, Copyright 1939, Permission Granted

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He Has Promised

*Do you sometimes feel forsaken -
All alone, with none to care,
When the burden on your shoulders
Seems too great for you to bear?
Are you wearied with the journey
And the sorrows you have known?
Talk it over with the Master –
You are really not alone.
Let your fainting heart take courage.
And your restless fears be still.
He has promised not to leave you.
And He never, never will.*

M. H. Goodman

Editor's Note: YOU can leave HIM though!

UpDate

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The Lord Bless!

June's Income for the *Morning Glory* was approx. \$2,697.28 and the offering for the June Conference was \$800.00.

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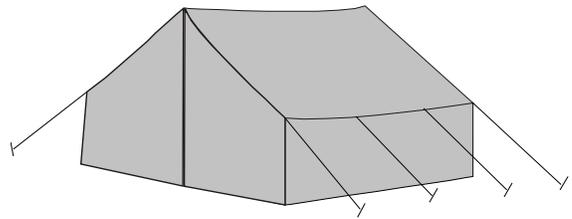
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Thank you and the Lord Bless!

Evangelistic Tent Meetings



Faith Lutheran Church of Running Valley of rural Colfax, Wisconsin, will be using the Hauge Innermission tent for evangelistic meetings. Pastor Jim Haga will be the speaker, along with special music each night. The meetings will be at the fairgrounds in Colfax. The dates for these meetings are August 27-30, 2017 and they will start each evening at 6:00 p.m.

Please consider who you might personally invite to attend with YOU and hear the WORD of God! Even if you can't personally attend, please undergird these meetings with prayer beginning now, and at the very time they are happening. Thank you for your faithful intercession.